

Appendix O

Region 7AA

Policy on Public Comments for Region 7AA Meetings

(April 21, 2004)

The business of Region 7AA shall be conducted at meetings of the Region 7AA Committee. Meetings of the Region 7AA Committee are open to the public. Persons interested in speaking to an agenda item must contact the Region 7AA Executive Secretary prior to the meeting and indicate the topic they wish to address. The Executive Secretary and Region 7AA Committee Chairperson shall determine whether the public comment is relevant to the agenda. The public comment section will be at the beginning of the agenda for each meeting. Public speakers will be called upon during this section of the agenda.

Guidelines for Public Comments at Board Meetings

- Each topic is allowed five minutes for a presentation.
- When there are many topics to be heard, the time limit may be shortened.
- Undue interruption or other interference with the orderly conduct of Region 7AA business will not be allowed.
- Defamatory, abusive or demeaning remarks are out of order.
- Committee members may question a speaker or comment in response to the speaker's remarks.

Rationale:

Because it is in the best interest of the Region 7AA Committee to conduct business in an efficient manner, the Committee wants to provide a procedure for people who may choose to comment on agenda items under consideration during the scheduled Region 7AA Committee meeting.

The above policy is consistent with the Open Meeting Law, meets the needs of the public, and allows Region 7AA to conduct their business in a timely manner.